



# **PRESIDENTIAL TASK FORCE ON COVID-19**

## **OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FEDERATION**

19<sup>th</sup> October 2020

### **UPDATED IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES FOR EXTENSION OF EASED LOCKDOWN: PHASE THREE**

#### **Section I. Guidance for Extension of Lockdown**

The Presidential Task Force on COVID-19 (PTF-COVID-19) has led the execution of interventions geared towards achieving COVID-19 epidemic control in Nigeria. Nigeria's COVID-19 response aims to achieve the twin purpose of epidemic control by reducing viral transmission and minimizing mortality among vulnerable parts of the population. Since the last (7<sup>th</sup>) Interim Report, the success recorded thus far continues to be sustained, with the number of recorded cases recently stabilizing, supported by a progressive fall in the case fatality rate to 1.9%. The reduction in the test positivity ratio to less than 5% is indicative of emerging epidemic control, despite the unsatisfactory testing rate in the country due to general apathy among the populace.

After reviewing the response nationwide, the PTF believes that while recent numbers point to a likely flattening of the curve consistent with emerging epidemic control, **Nigeria is not yet ready for a full reopening of the economy**. It is the recommendation of the PTF that Nigeria further relaxes the restrictions in this Third phase of the response, while maintaining key limitations to curb the risk of a spike in cases. The major priorities for the **Third Phase** to be maintained include: (i) Using data and science to inform decision-making; (ii) Improving the efficiency of response activities; and (iii) Ensuring personal responsibility of individuals in preventing transmission.

Further to the considered opinion above and **effective from 00:01h Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> October, 2020**, the Third Phase of the National Response to COVID-19 will be maintained for a period of four weeks in line with amendments to address economic, socio-political and health considerations reflected in the table below. The PTF will be instituting further changes in line with the **Third Phase** of the response as follows:

- Maintaining the current nationwide curfew from 12am to 4am;
- Opening of NYSC orientation camps;
- The gradual re-opening of all educational institutions in a phased manner;
- Maintain the restrictions on mass gatherings outside the workplace to no more than 50 persons;
- Removal of the limitation on civil servants allowed to come to work with alternate day arrangements;
- Re-commencement of sporting leagues, in particular all outdoor activities such as football;
- Recreational parks, event centres and restaurants to open for outdoor service only while bars and night clubs shall remain closed;
- Mandatory use of non-medical facemasks in public spaces. 'No mask, no entry. No mask, no service';
- Maintain 'No Mask, No Voting' policy with enforcement of guidance on conducting safe elections during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Guidelines have been developed with the NCDC, PTF and NYSC in preparation for the re-opening of the orientation camps on 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2020. The PTF has also arranged for additional safeguards to include the testing of all Youth Corps Members and staff in the camps for COVID-19 prior to commencement of the orientation programme. Schools have started reopening across the country with close supervision and oversight by State and local education authorities. The lifting of restrictions on outdoor sporting activities (without audience) is in line with earlier consultations with the Federal Ministry of Sports and Youth Development and the NCDC. However, mass gatherings including indoor sports events is still restricted as these represent an opportunity for the virus to spread with an increased risk of a second wave. For gatherings in enclosed spaces e.g. weddings, this will continue to be limited to only 50 persons with physical distancing and compulsory wearing of facemasks. The PTF also believes that it is now time to allow civil servants of all grades to resume work safely but with alternate day attendance. Additional guidance will be provided to heads of MDAs to ensure strict enforcement of non-pharmaceutical interventions measures in government offices and other public buildings.

The next stage of the response will include:

- Close monitoring of the impact of re-opening of schools and airports for international travel;
  - Supporting States in developing and improving sample collection sites;
  - Continued engagement of States with low sample collection rates to do better;
  - Enhanced surveillance across the country coupled with piloting of new rapid diagnostic test kits;
- and

- Monitoring the utilisation of funds provided to 32 States plus FCT for COVID-19 related activities.

The National Response would continue to focus on achieving a balance between preserving lives and livelihoods delicately while addressing the socio-economic disruptions caused by the pandemic.

## Section II. Protocols for Easing of Lockdown

We have made these recommendations in line with the three established thematic areas:

- Movement;
- Industry and Labour; and
- Community Activities.

The table below provides additional details (underlined passages reflect new changes to protocol):

### GENERAL MOVEMENT

ASPECT	RECOMMENDATION
CURFEW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Maintaining of the curfew from 12 midnight to 4am</li> </ul>
GENERAL MOVEMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No formal restrictions on movement within the country. But the risk remains, therefore citizens are encouraged to refrain from unnecessary travel;</li> <li>▪ Comply with non-pharmaceutical guidelines such as the mandatory use of facemask/coverings in public; and</li> <li>▪ Vulnerable persons are strongly advised to remain at home and reduce social interactions.</li> </ul>
AIR TRANSPORT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Aviation services have fully resumed;</li> <li>▪ Guidelines for international travellers are in place;</li> <li>▪ Only travellers and airport staff to be allowed into airport structures at this time;</li> <li>▪ Passengers to ensure they arrive early for all flights taking into consideration the delays likely to arise from these additional measures (<u>1.5</u> hours domestic and <u>3</u> hours international); and</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Avoid non-essential travel to countries with high incidence of COVID-19.</li> </ul>
<p>LAND AND RAIL TRANSPORT (previously divided into inter-state and intra-state travel)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No limitations on inter- or intra-state travel, but all vendors and service providers must abide by stated stipulations from the Federal Ministry of Transportation and ensure that PPEs are used and where applicable, physical distancing is observed; and</li> <li>▪ Security agencies to enforce the use of non-pharmaceutical interventions including the use of facemasks, hand sanitisers, temperature checks, while rail stations, bus and taxi parks are to provide handwashing facilities.</li> </ul>

## INDUSTRY & LABOUR

ASPECT	RECOMMENDATION
<p>WORKING ARRANGEMENT (Private Sector)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Maintain normal working hours;</li> <li>▪ Offices to determine optimal working capacity to ensure enough physical distancing and preserve the healthcare of workers in their employ; the restriction in numbers for mass gatherings does not apply to workspaces provided physical distancing measures are complied with;</li> <li>▪ Ensure that all necessary PPEs are available and NPIs are observed; and</li> <li>▪ Personalised services to ensure face masks are worn when selling goods or providing services and ensure provision of sanitisers and appropriate PPEs to all workers.</li> </ul>
<p>WORKING ARRANGEMENT (Public Sector)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Maintain normal working hours;</li> <li>▪ <u>All staff can return to work, but alternate day attendance advised for staff below GL.12;</u></li> <li>▪ Ensure that all necessary PPEs and NPIs are observed; and</li> <li>▪ Heads of MDAs to determine best working arrangements to reduce overcrowding.</li> </ul>

<p>COMMUNAL COMMERCIAL SPACES (Markets/Stores)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Observe all mandatory non-pharmaceutical interventions, while removing all restrictions on opening days and limits in stores;</li> <li>▪ Store owners to take responsibility for compliance with non-pharmaceutical interventions and policies to safeguard their staff and patrons of their facilities; and</li> <li>▪ Facility owners/managers to ensure that physical distancing is observed, provision of hand sanitisers and handwashing facilities, ensure the mandatory use of face masks and work on environmental hygiene; and</li> <li>▪ <b>NO MASK, NO ENTRY; NO MASK, NO SERVICE.</b></li> </ul>
<p>HOSPITALITY AND ENTERTAINMENT FACILITIES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Hotels to remain open and observe all non-pharmaceutical interventions;</li> <li>▪ Bars, lounges, and Night clubs to remain closed till further notice;</li> <li>▪ Amusement Parks, Gyms and Cinemas to open at half-capacity;</li> <li>▪ Event centres with outdoor spaces to open;</li> <li>▪ Eateries and Restaurants to open only outdoor seating service;</li> <li>▪ Each authority to publish guidelines for minimising risk in their states, facilities, and industries; and</li> <li>▪ <b>NO MASK, NO ENTRY; NO MASK, NO SERVICE.</b></li> </ul>
<p>NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE CORPS (NYSC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <u>NYSC to reopen camps</u> with safety measures in place to prevent transmission and to detect cases through testing; and</li> <li>▪ Specific guidelines are being developed together with the PTF.</li> </ul>
<p>INDEPENDENT NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION (INEC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ensure compliance with the publicised policy on conducting safe elections in the context of COVID-19; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. No face mask, no voting;</li> <li>b. Provision of hand sanitisers at polling units;</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>c. Temperature checks at polling units;</li> <li>d. Observation of physical distancing in all electoral activities; and</li> <li>e. Ensure compliance with all other electoral protocols issued by relevant health authorities.</li> </ul>
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## COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

ASPECT	RECOMMENDATION
EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS (Day-care, Primary, Secondary and Tertiary)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All day-care and educational institutions to reopen in line with Federal and State guidelines;</li> <li>▪ Federal and State Governments to ensure guidelines are in place for the safe reopening of educational institutions in line with COVID-19 protocols;</li> <li>▪ Opening to be staged and carried out in phases – Universities, Secondary and Primary schools;</li> <li>▪ States to conduct risk assessment to ensure all schools are at a level of compliance and create a monitoring mechanism to assess and monitor the level of compliance;</li> <li>▪ Educational institutions to begin working towards reopening within this phase.</li> </ul>
RELIGIOUS CENTRES (Churches/Mosques etc)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Restricted opening subject to the protocols agreed by respective State Governments and FCT;</li> <li>▪ Centres to prioritise multiple services to prevent overcrowding and facilitate physical distancing; and</li> <li>▪ Observe all mandatory non-pharmaceutical interventions.</li> </ul>
RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND SPORTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <u>Restriction is removed on outdoor communal sports</u> and use of recreational parks for supervised physical exercise; and</li> <li>▪ <u>Sporting leagues are permitted to reopen</u>, with guidance from the Federal Ministry of Sports and Youth Development and the NCDC.</li> </ul>

<p>GATHERINGS (Weddings, Meetings etc)</p> <p>Parties,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Limited to 50 people in enclosed spaces provided physical distancing rules are followed; outdoor gatherings are preferred;</li> <li>▪ All attendees must wash or sanitize their hands before and after attendance; and</li> <li>▪ Physical distancing and wearing of face masks must be adhered to for all attendees.</li> </ul>
<p>HOSPITAL SERVICES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Visiting patients is still limited to immediate family</li> </ul>

-Signed-

**Boss Mustapha**

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Chairman, Presidential Task Force on COVID-19